

Examiner, whether considered alone or in combination, fail to either teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention. Applicants' claimed invention relates to an improved ohmic electrode structure wherein a non-single crystal semiconductor layer comprising In and a film including at least metal nitride are sequentially stacked on a III-V compound semiconductor body. The references cited by the Examiner fail to either teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Applicants note that the Jackson reference, U.S. Patent No. 5,098,859 merely relates to a semiconductor device wherein an InAs crystal is formed on a GaAs body. As even recognized by the Examiner, this reference does not provide any teaching or suggestion whatsoever regarding Applicants' claimed metal nitride layer which provides significant advantages for the ohmic electrode of the claimed invention.

The Examiner attempts to rely upon the Nirschl reference, German Patent No. 41 29 647 A1, however, the Nirschl reference does not even relate to a GaAs semiconductor device. Accordingly, there is no suggestion in the art that the device of Nirschl should be combined with the Jackson reference. Furthermore, there is no indication that such a combination would result in the Applicants' claimed invention. There is simply no teaching or suggestion of Applicants' advance in the art.

Applicants also specifically request reconsideration of the prior art rejections of claims 5, 6, 8, 15, 16, and 18. As noted by the Examiner, neither Jackson nor Nirschl teach or suggest the device as claimed would include a layer formed of a refractory metal. In addition to the fact that these claims would not be obvious at least for the reasons cited above in that the combination of Jackson and Nirschl will not result in the invention as claimed in the base claim, claim 1. Applicants note that there similarly is no suggestion to combine the teachings of the Ishihara reference as asserted by the Examiner.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit all claims of the application are patentably distinguishable over the teachings of the references of record, taken singly or in combination. Early reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

(Reg. No. 37,607)

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on June 5, 1998.

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Name of Applicants' Attorney

Signature

June 5, 1998

Date